NATHAN et al. Appl. No. 10/661,811 April 7, 2008

# **AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

The attached eight (8) sheets of drawings, which include Figs. 1-8, replace the original sheets including Fig. 1-8. Now new matter has been introduced.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, claims 1-42 have been cancelled, and claims 43-79 have been added. Thus, claims 43-79 are pending for further examination.

## Information Disclosure Statement

As background, it is respectfully noted that the assignee of the instant invention maintains a large, interactive entertainment network, providing innovative solutions to over 30,000 bars, restaurants, retailers, and other businesses in North America alone. The assignee of the instant invention introduced what is believed to be the world's first digital-downloading, pay-per-play commercial jukebox in 1998 and now operates what is believed to be the largest network of interactive entertainment systems, playing over 1.5 million songs per day. It maintains a digital music library of more than two million licensed tracks from every major record label, in addition to independent music distributors and a host of independent labels. Part of the assignee's commercial success is believed to be related to its significant history of innovation as evidenced, in part, by its numerous issued patents and pending patent applications. As such, it perhaps is not surprising that the assignee of the instant invention has become aware of the significant body of art reflected on the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed August 30, 2007.

Page 2 of the Office Action notes that there are over 200 references cited in this IDS and further states, "The Examiner has performed a <u>cursory review</u> of all the ones containing subject matter in English" (emphasis added). However, MPEP 609 states that "Once the minimum requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 37 CFR 1.98 are met, the examiner has an obligation to consider the information." MPEP 609.05(b) elaborates on this obligation:

"Consideration by the examiner of the information submitted in an IDS means that the examiner will consider the documents in the same manner as other documents in Office search files are considered by the examiner while conducting a search of the prior art in a proper field of search. . . . Examiners must consider all citations submitted in conformance with the rules, and their initials when placed adjacent to the considered citations on the list or in the boxes provided on a form PTO/SB/08A and 08B provides a clear record of which citations have been considered by the Office."

In view of these requirements, Applicant assumes that the initials adjacent to the references cited in Applicant's IDS of August 30, 2007 indicate that the references have been duly considered pursuant to MPEP 609, *et seq*. If this is not the case, the Examiner is kindly requested to "line through" any references not appropriately considered on the courtesy copy of the IDS attached hereto.

## Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The rejections of claims 1-42 as allegedly being made "obvious" by various combinations of Bowman-Amuah (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,382), Martin (WO 93/18465), Dunning et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,024,485), and Raike et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0162104) is most in view of the cancellation of these claims. It is noted that Applicant does not acquiesce to the propriety of these Section 103 rejections.

#### New Claims 43-79

New claims 43-79 have been added to seek further protection for the invention. No new matter has been introduced.

#### Conclusion

Applicant believes that all of the pending claims clearly and patentably distinguish the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Thus, passage of this case to issuance at an early date is earnestly solicited.

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Should the Examiner have any questions, or deem that any further issues need to be addressed prior to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the phone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.** 

By:

Joseph S. Presta Reg. No. 35,329

JSP:JR/lmj

901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor

Arlington, VA 22203-1808 Telephone: (703) 816-4000 Facsimile: (703) 816-4100 Sheet SERIAL NO. TY. DOCKET NO. INFORMATION DISCLOSUREMENT CITATION 10/661,811 2302-16 APPLICANT 3621 NATHAN et al. GROUP FILING DATE eets if necessary) AUG 30 September 15, 2003 U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS FILING DATE
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Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 809; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Initial a

this form with next communication to application.

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